

Support Price for Potato

2879. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's response to Punjab and UP farmers' demands for the minimum support prices for their bumper potato crop; and

(b) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard by resolving the potato crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) On the formal request of the State Governments, Government of India is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural items of importance including potato, price of which tend to fall below economic level and the farmers are put to distress sales due to bumper crop. Proposal from Government of Punjab has been received for implementation of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for potato to provide price support to the farmers which is under consideration. No such proposal has been received from Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Crashing of Coconut Prices in Goa, Karnataka and Kerala

2880. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that coconut prices in Goa, Karnataka and Kerala have crashed dramatically causing panic amongst the growers of the States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to protect interests of the growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The market prices of copra have been subdued during 2000-2001